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to the average teacher of mathematics. His salary, as well as his rank and professional standing, are very closely related to the way in which he is regarded by other mathematicians, in his own institution and throughout the country. His advancement usually depends upon a change from one institution to another, or on the prospect of such a change. Until the present time the only way of claiming the regard and good opinion of mathematicians outside of one's own institution has been through research. This has resulted in great emphasis on activities in research and small emphasis on effective teaching, when appointments and promotions are considered. The new association should become an avenue through which an effective teacher may gain the good opinion of the profession at large because of the quality of his work and through contributions to the solution of the problems of the teacher. In this way salary, rank, etc., may come to be more closely related to service rendered. May not the new born Association thus become a very material economic asset to many worthy teachers of mathematics?

The economic motive may become an influence of considerable proportions in promoting activities in the new Association, as I believe it has been in promoting research which finds its expression through the old Society.

RALPH E. ROOT.

U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY,
January 4, 1916.

ECHOES FROM THE COLUMBUS MEETING.

All will be interested to know that the membership list of the Association is growing apace, over one hundred per week being the record for the time since the announcements were distributed. It is taken for granted that all who signed the call for the organization meeting will come in as charter members. In fact, the membership committee of the Council has already elected all of these persons to membership so that there will be no delay when their names are received. Large numbers of them are already in, as well as many of those whose names were received too late to appear in the call.

Attention is again called to the provision of the Constitution that in the case of all who join the Association before April 1, 1916, the initiation fee is to be waived. Doubtless, many who fully intend to take advantage of this provision may find themselves characterized in the following note just received from a prominent member of the faculty of a great New England University:

You may have wondered why I did not join the Mathematical Association earlier, if you thought about it at all. It has been negligence and not lack of appreciation for the movement you have had so much to do with. I feel a large personal debt to the MONTHLY, and I believe it will do even more good in the future than in the past.

It is confidently believed that such declarations of allegiance, just at this time, to the Mathematical Association of America, will prove to be as important a service to the cause of mathematics in this country as may be rendered by those who are in any way related to the collegiate field. The establishment of a widely

representative membership of large proportions within a period of sixty days (from the distribution of the announcements) will set a record and create a momentum which should sweep all obstacles from the path.

Institutional memberships are coming in as rapidly as could be expected in view of the time required to make such arrangements. One of the universities on the former subsidy list has shown its confidence in the cause by subscribing for an institutional membership for a period of five years in advance. It is believed that many institutions will consider it an honor to be thus connected with this Association.

A correspondent asks whether a delegate sent by an institutional member to a meeting would be counted as an individual member. This is clearly not contemplated by the Constitution. Institutional members are those who support the Association by the payment of the individual dues, and only the names of such persons will appear in the address list of individual members to be printed later. There will also be printed a list of institutional members, but this list will not be accompanied by the names of delegates, since these will vary from time to time. The names of delegates actually in attendance at any meeting will be printed with the report of that meeting. An individual member may, of course, be delegated by an institution to represent it at any meeting. The two copies of the *MONTHLY* to be sent to institutional members will in all cases be mailed directly to the library of the institution, and not to individual members of the faculty.

Inquiries are coming in with respect to the formation of state sections of the Association. One of particular interest at this time is from the state of Georgia. It is hoped and believed that many new organizations of this character will be formed as soon as there is time for the plan to become sufficiently well known; and also that many existing organizations will be directed into this channel. Emphasis is laid upon the state as a convenient geographical subdivision for a section, because of the fact that there are already mathematical organizations in many cases in connection with the general state teachers' associations, and these can be readily transformed into sections of the new Association. Moreover, the meetings of such sections can be held at the same time as the general state meetings, thus making it possible for larger numbers to get together, and avoiding unnecessary duplication of places and times of meeting. The Committee on the organization of sections is working out the details and will have a report ready to publish in the March issue.

Suggestions have already been made for starting a library for the Association. For the present it will be in charge of the Secretary, and any who wish to contribute books or journals may send them directly to Professor W. D. CAIRNS, Oberlin, Ohio. The Managing Editor wishes to announce that through the kindness of Professor E. H. MOORE, he has been able to make up a complete set of the *MONTHLY*. These volumes will be bound and placed in the Library at an early date. This is especially fortunate, since it is almost impossible now to secure complete sets of the *MONTHLY*. Some publishers have also contributed certain books. A complete list of these will be published soon.